



e-Newsletter

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Sacred Places

Vol. 25 No. 1
Spring 2014

Catholic Burial Rites Explained

Did you know that there are three rites in a Christian Burial? While the death of each of God's created is uniquely crafted, Mother Church has been in existence for over 2,000 years and has certainly experienced the pain of death from the time of our Lord to the very present time. Each life is precious to our Father in heaven. Just as in this life, death does not destroy the bonds of affection and friendship we forged. How do we as Roman Catholics, understand our lives with God while we are present on this earth and when we return to God, our creator?

Our journey begins with Christ, His Church and the Sacrament of Baptism. This sacrament of initiation marks us as members of the Church and incorporates us into the Body of Christ. With a white garment symbolizing the dignity as a Christian, a new creation, our journey of life begins. This journey is a progression to the creator who made us. God is calling us home and therefore every journey of human life ultimately ends in death, not an end but rather a beginning of eternal life. The Church was present for us at the beginning of our journey, and it is only fitting that it be with us at our earthly end to offer prayers for the deceased and comfort for the living.

Along our journey of life as Catholics, there are sacraments along the way that strengthen us and guide us. The height of these sacraments is the Eucharist; the source and summit of our faith. God became incarnate for the sake of humankind, through Eucharist, God gives himself to us and we of free will allow God to enter our every fiber. The acts of blessing, breaking, and giving are what lead us to let go of the corporal in order to begin to lead a life of service to the Lord and one another. All spirituality flows from the Eucharist as light streams from a source, and all spirituality is ordered towards and becomes realized in the Eucharist. Our threefold Catholic burial rites; Vigil (Wake), Funeral Mass, and Committal is an integration of the Eucharist; drawing the comparisons of Christ, the perfect human to the deceased dignity.

The Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, and Committal each have distinct purposes in the journey to healing and wholeness, and peace. We do not have to face death alone, nor should we, our Church, our community will be there for us and for that we can be thankful.

The First Part - Vigil for the Deceased - *An Act of Faith*

The Vigil is truly a time to laugh, to cry, remember and pray. A time to rejoice in all that the person was and is. This time together with family and friends can truly be a time of healing for all those who are hurting.

The Vigil for the deceased is the first way that the Church captures the sentiments of those who are grieving and sets them in the context of our faith. This is the beginning of the last journey our loved one will make in this world. This burial journey begins at the funeral home, to the church, a procession to the place of interment where final prayers are said. A prayer service with readings selected from Scripture to fit the circumstances of the deceased, a homily that comforts and gives hope, intercessions that speak to the faith of those gathered around the deceased, and prayers selected from the rich resources found in the Order of Christian Funerals (OCF) can do a great deal to prepare people to enter into the Christian spirit of the Funeral Liturgy.

Eulogies are best given at an appropriate time during the Vigil Service. Stories are well received as they describe the times when the deceased did something heroic, something funny, or how well they lived their life in service to others. "My yoke is easy and my burden is light" says the Lord. While there is a natural desire to say good things about a person who has died, we must always remember that in the context of prayer, it is the working of God's grace in the life of the deceased for which we want to give thanks and praise. Eulogies in the context of prayer must be more than mere tributes to the goodness of the deceased. There must be a reference to what God has done for the deceased and for us through them. Parish clergy and parish bereavement ministers are available at most churches to assist families in selecting Scripture reading and music for the wake service and funeral liturgies if they so desire.

The Second Part - Funeral Liturgy - *An Act of Hope*

The Funeral Mass is our great "Thank You" to God who created us, died for us, and who is calling each of us back to himself. At this point, the focus shifts from emphasis on the deceased to God's saving works through Jesus Christ. The Mass, especially at the time of death, is truly a special moment, a holy moment, a God moment.

Celebrating the Funeral Liturgy at Mass in the parish church is the normal way in which most Catholics experience the Order of Christian Funerals. The Eucharist looks forward to our participation in the heavenly banquet, where we are united with Jesus, the saints, and all those who share eternal life. Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood shall live forever." (John 6:54) The Eucharist is truly the central point in a Catholic funeral. Its effectiveness is greatly enhanced when the family

participates in appropriate ways: clothing the casket with a pall, selecting Scripture readings, serving as lectors or extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, singing the responses, and hymns, and most especially, receiving Holy Communion.

The funeral homily is of utmost importance in the funeral liturgy. A homily may only be delivered by a priest or deacon, as liturgical homilies are part of the sacramental rite of the Eucharist. The homily speaks of the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection and gives deeper meaning that is found in the experience of death and dying. The homily occurs within the context of a funeral Mass that is offered for the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of the soul of the faithful departed.

Christ said our hope lies in Him. The Mass is the Alpha and the Omega (the beginning and the end) of our spiritual life. Our being here, in the presence of the body of the person who was once the temple of the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ shows our belief that this person has truly attained Beatific Vision. The Funeral Rite for most Catholics includes this Liturgy of the Eucharist. However, if after consulting with the parish clergy, the decision is made not to include this Liturgy, there is an alternate Funeral Rite outside of Mass which may be used.

The Third Part - Catholic Committal - An Act of Love

The last step – the last concrete act we can do for our loved ones in this world – is the Committal, the burial or entombment of the remains of the deceased. The relationships, bonds and communion we build with one another in faith are not broken by death. Resting in a holy place with our brothers and sisters is a profound statement and testament of that belief. We show our love and respect for the one who has left us with appropriate dignity and symbolism. The deceased was the human home of the Holy Spirit when they walked with us, and we bestow as much honor as we can give to such a hallowed being as we commit the body to the earth.

A Catholic cemetery is a sacred place of honor and respect for those who have died. It is a memorial to all who are interred there. It is a sacred place where Catholics come to express their grief and hope in the resurrection for their loved ones who have preceded them in death. It is blessed ground, fitting for someone whose body was a temple of the Holy Spirit on earth and now awaits the resurrection from the dead.

To have a clergy representative present at this final moment is a great source of comfort and consolation to those who now have to continue their journey in life without their beloved; yet never alone. The community continues to show its concern for the mourners by participating in the Rite of Committal. This rite marks the separation in this life of the mourners from the deceased and through it, the community assists them as they complete their care for the deceased and lay the body to rest until the final resurrection.

Dust to Dust – Ashes to Ashes, and we leave in peace because in the words of the poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, in his Psalm of Life, reflects the Catholic belief that **"Life is real, earnest and the grave is not its goal. Dust thou art, to dust thou returns was not spoken of the soul."**

As we take leave of our loved one, the Church, our community encourages all the faithful to use other Corporal Works of Mercy as an excellent way in which to remember their beloved dead. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked is our way of giving honor to those who gave so much to us.

Prepared by – Deacon Al Pickford, Customer Service Manager
Catholic Cemeteries apickford@holysepulchrecemetery.org

Choose Annual Plants Wisely



If you're thinking of an annual that will thrive in intense sun, heat and is very drought resistant, once established, vinca may be your best bet. Vinca is often mistaken for impatiens.

It's important to know your planting area. Certain annuals do better than others in shade, southern exposures and amount of waterfall. Once you're familiar with the conditions affecting your plot or home garden, you'll be able to pick plants that will adorn an area with minimal effort on your part. Of course, if you are a frequent visitor at the cemetery and can devote the time and care to water, your options for planting and plant survival are greater. To become more familiar with annuals that may work best for you, consult a salesperson at your local nursery, or visit the web [click here](#)

Prepared – Andreas Zielinski, Cemetery Manager – Catholic Cemeteries
azielinski@holyroodcemetery.org

Spring



When I was a young mother my six year old daughter wrote this poem as an Easter gift to me. I want to share this with you as a gift of love, in the same manner it was given to me from the pure heart of a young child, during this Blessed Season.

The poem is about spring and spring is the beginning of an eternal and beautiful cycle of life. Spring truly represents the message of Easter, rebirth, the resurrection of our Lord and God's gift of eternal life.

As the sun melts the cold harsh weather from our minds,
the earth begins to soften.

Soft to the fingers of a young child is the rose.
Walking barefoot you can feel the warmth of the young grass.
The fresh leaves breathe the soft warm winds of the south.
Soon we will feel the heat of summer, the chill of fall,
and the freeze of winter.

Then my poem will have meaning again.
--- Lisa Kurtz age 6

I hope that you enjoy it and have a beautiful and Blessed Easter.

Provided by - Marie Fenimore, Financial Service Manager, Catholic
Cemeteries -mfenimore@holyroodcemetery.org

Grief – Journeying through the Process Together

Occasionally I hear people speaking to others that are experiencing the pain of loss and although these folks mean well, some words they use compound the griever's sorrow rather than help. Honestly, grief knows no time limits, no boundaries, and there are no cookie-cutter solutions. Advising someone in the depth of their grief that, "time heals all wounds" or "God doesn't give us more than we can handle", or even worse yet, "it's been a year now, don't you think you should be moving on instead of constantly moping?" impedes the process of healing more than helping. I am absolutely positive that each of you could insert your own examples of well-intended but ill-advised statements that someone has told you at a similar time. The truth of the matter is that grieving is unique to each individual and that there are no time limits to move beyond the pain. Even if you do not hear such statements from those in your circle, you may even question your own process toward healing. You may look at others who experienced a recent loss and thought, "Why do they seem to be doing so much better than me?" Whether the pressure to "get on with life" comes from within, without, or a combination of both, loss is still a very real and serious issue to discuss with someone whom we can trust with our feelings.

So, how can those of us that journey with someone experiencing the pain of loss be of assistance; what are we to say or do? The death of a loved one is one of life's most difficult hurts. The grieving struggle with a myriad of intense and frightening emotions: anger, guilt, and depression. They often feel alone in their grief but having someone to lean on during this time is especially helpful. You may not know the right words to say or what actions to take and that is fine. The most important thing you can do for someone in grief is to be available. Your comfort, care and concern alone allows the griever not to feel loneliness and begin to cope with the pain of loss. The following methods are intended to help move us beyond ourselves and open a helpful experience for those we care so deeply for:

The following are suggestions to use as a guide to begin a meaningful conversation.

- **Acknowledge the Situation.** For example, "I heard that your _____ died." Please use the word died as it will demonstrate your willingness to talk to the person about how they really feel.
- **Express your concern.** Example, "I am sorry to hear that this happened to you"
- **Be Genuine.** For example, "I'm not sure what to say but I want you to know that I care."
- **Offer support.** "Tell me what I can do for you."
- **Ask how they feel.** No one feels the same day after day. Let them express what they need to.



If appropriate, invite the person to talk about their loss. A suggestion to begin this conversation would be, "Do you feel like talking?" If they do respond positively, we must be willing to be a good listener and a good listener will:

1. **Accept and acknowledge all feelings.** Let them know it is okay for them to cry, or be angry, to break down, and to feel whatever they need. Remember, it is not about you and your feelings and pain they express should not be taken personally.
2. **Be able & willing to sit in silence.** Sometimes a touch of a hand can say you care much more eloquently than an hour of talking to avoid the silence.
3. **Let them talk about their loved one.** It is common for those who are grieving to tell their story over and over again. Repeating the story is a way for them to process and accept the death.
4. **Offer comfort without minimizing the loss.** Tell the griever that what they are feeling is okay. Do not give unsolicited advice, and claim to know how they feel due to your own personal losses. Remember, each of us grieve in our own individual way.

There are also many practical ways you can help a grieving person. You may wish to offer one of the following:

- Shop for groceries or run errands
- Drop off a cooked meal
- Watch children if necessary
- Offer to drive them where they may need to go
- Join them for a walk
- As well as many, many other helpful, yet practical ways to help.

We have often heard the phrase, "*It takes a village to raise a child*" but I offer, "*It takes a community to assist someone in grief.*" We know our strengths and recognize our weaknesses. Together as a caring community, we can join our strengths to form a lifeline to those in need.

Lastly, as a friend of someone grieving, watch for some possible warning signals. If the griever does not gradually improve or even gets worse over time, this may be a sign there is a more serious problem that requires the help of a mental health professional. You may wish to say, "I am troubled that you aren't _____ perhaps you should look into getting help.

Here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we are blessed to have qualified people to be of assistance. You may wish to visit www.DRVC-Faith.org/bereavement for further information concerning available bereavement groups in your area or any additional assistance. If you do not have access to a computer or would like to ask a specific question concerning bereavement, kindly call our diocesan phone number during normal business hours at 516-678-5800 X 236. In the case of emergency, please contact 911. (Available 24 hours a day).

Prepared by – Deacon Al Pickford, Customer Service Manager
Catholic Cemeteries apickford@holysepulchrecemetery.org



www.holyroodcemetery.org

Spring Decoration Program

The spring decoration program will again be offered for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Live floral decorations will be available for placement on gravesites and in the chapels of the community mausoleums. A beautiful, live potted plant will be placed directly in the planting area in front or rear of the monument. For those families who have mausoleum crypts, the flowers will be placed on stands in the respective chapels. The names of those remembered will be placed in a Book of Remembrance at the altar.

The cost for each plant ordered will be **\$25.00**. They will be placed the week before Mother's and Father's Day, and will remain there through the week of the holiday itself. Families are invited to take their plants home prior to their removal by our staff.

If you placed an order last year, you will receive notification through the mail. Otherwise, you may fill out the coupon below and mail it with your check as soon as possible.



2014: Mother's Day # of Plants ____

2014: Father's Day # of Plants ____

Total: _____ Plants @ \$25 each = \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No.: _____

Email Address: _____

Cemetery _____

Section _____ Range _____ Plot _____

Or Chapel Mausoleum:

Corridor _____ Tier _____ Crypt # _____

Name of deceased Mother: _____

Name of deceased Father: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Catholic Cemeteries**

Mail your order to: **P.O. Box 182, Westbury NY 11590-0182**

Why are some things allowed and other items a problem?

<http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/decoration.pdf>



- Orders are placed and then delivered to the family gravesite 1 week before holiday.
- Families plant at lot or remove their flowers. If they are to be kept by 1 week after the holiday.
- The cemetery staff then collects the remaining potted plants from the lots
- The removed flowers are planted around the grounds for all to enjoy throughout the summer time.
- Provides a holiday gravesite decoration for our loved ones
- Provides the cemetery grounds with common area floral beautification
- Recycles the plant and saves money
- Revenue supports Catholic Cemeteries missions

**Thank you for supporting the
Catholic Cemeteries
Mother's Day and Father's Day
Chapel Plant and Gravesite Floral Programs.**

Bereavement Conference

“Strength and Hope for the Journey”

Saturday, March 22, 2014 “This event is sponsored by Catholic Cemeteries and the Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Rockville Centre, for the bereaved of all faiths and those caring for them, at Kellenberg H.S. Uniondale NY from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. We will have a keynote speaker and select two workshops from a selection list of 22. Lunch and conference folder are included in the registration fee. [Conference Brochure](#)

Recommended On line Bereavement Resources

www.holyroodcemetery.org

www.drvc-faith.org/bereavement/

An Afternoon of Prayer & Enrichment

For all involved in Ministry of Consolation and come renew, refresh, learn, share, & pray.

An Afternoon of Prayer & Enrichment, Coram

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 , 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 3442 Route 112, Coram, NY 11727.

Presenters: Sr. Mary Alice Piil, CSJ, Director of Faith Formation, Peter Ryan, Director of Catholic Cemeteries and Christopher Ferraro, MA Music Director, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Cost: \$10.

[Register](#)

An Afternoon of Prayer & Enrichment, Westbury

Thursday, May 8, 2014 , 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. at Cemetery of the Holy Rood, 111 Old Country Road, Westbury, NY 11590. Presenters: Sr. Mary Alice Piil, CSJ, Director of Faith Formation, Peter Ryan, Director of Catholic Cemeteries and Christopher Ferraro, MA Music Director, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Cost: \$10.

[Register](#)

[View or Download Flyer](#)

Stations of the Cross

We invite you to join us on **Good Friday, April 18th**, at **12:00 noon in the Holy Rood Chapel** for the opening prayers. Weather permitting, we will follow the mile-and-a-half route throughout Holy Rood Cemetery as we commemorate Our Lord's redemptive death. If the weather is inclement, the ceremony will be held in the chapel. The service will conclude with final prayers and Veneration of the Cross in the Chapel.



The Catholic Cemetery is established to carry out the sacred religious function of the burial of the dead and the care for their resting places, recognizing the deep spiritual significance of this Corporal Work of Mercy.



Cemetery grounds open everyday (weather permitting) 8 AM to 5 PM ~ Mausoleum Buildings open from 8 AM to 4:30 PM
Office open 9 AM to 4:30 PM (Monday thru Friday) ~ 9 AM to 12:00 noon on Saturdays
For further information please visit the website of the Office of Catholic Cemeteries www.holyroodcemetery.org

Managing Cemeteries

(Permanent Maintenance Care)

Organization – Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Rockville Centre (“Catholic Cemeteries”) include the accounts of The Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, and Queen of All Saints Cemetery. Catholic Cemeteries is a part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre (The “Diocese”) which is under the control of the Diocesan Ordinary.

Catholic Cemeteries is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and a similar provision of the New York State Income tax laws.

Transparency - [The 2013 Financial Statements](#)

The three things that Matter Most –

There are three distinct groups that must be considered in the exercise of the Corporal Work of Mercy known as the Burial of the Dead. Those who are buried, entombed, or inurned in our cemeteries are the first group. The policies of our cemeteries are written for their protection. **These individuals are entitled, even after they have died, to a respectful burial, to the care and maintenance of their interment spaces, to a holy and beautiful environment of the Catholic cemetery,** in recognition of our belief that cemeteries are “resting places” as we await as a community of faith for the final resurrection.

The second group consists of **the survivors and visitors to Catholic Cemeteries.** Among this group would be those who have purchased spaces for future use, those who have loved ones or friends buried in one or more of our cemeteries, those who utilize our cemeteries as places for prayer and meditation, or those who come to our cemeteries to render services either to families or cemetery management and operations.

The third group that must be considered includes **the Catholic Church itself,** its rituals, disciplines and procedures, cemetery management and all cemetery support staff who are charged not only with the application of the Church’s directives, but who also must interact with families requiring our services, or visitors and others who come to the cemeteries to render services either on behalf of families or cemetery management.

These cemetery policies and practices are designed to chart a course of mutual cooperation and protection for all of these groups and the individuals within them. They are intended to help sanctify the living memories of those buried within the cemeteries and to create an environment within the cemeteries that awakens faith and brings consolation. The enforcement of the cemetery rules (policies and procedures) will assist in protecting the cemeteries, creating and preserving their beauty, and ensuring that the interests of all concerned parties are equally addressed.

The Commitment –

Catholic cemeteries image the care of the Church for her people, which does not cease when death occurs. Those who have gone before us into the Communion of Saints lie in the consecrated space of the Catholic Cemetery; they are family, friends, fellow parishioners, and co-laborers, all believers in Jesus Christ, Eternal Life and the Kingdom of God.

Whether summer or winter, whether in rain, snow or sunshine, those who work the grounds must keep these facilities in a condition that makes them both accessible and welcoming. Catholic cemeteries are to be places of remembrance and hope, prayer and comfort; they must be facilities that reflect the Church’s theology about dignity of each human person, whether that person is alive or in the tomb awaiting the day of final judgment.

The Definitions - [You can read more here](#)

Care means that the general maintenance of the cemetery and of the lots, graves, crypts, niches, family mausoleum, memorials, and markers therein is the sole discretion of Catholic Cemeteries, including cutting and trimming of lawn and trees at reasonable intervals, keeping in repair the drains, water lines, roads, buildings, fences and other structures, in keeping with a well maintained cemetery. It also includes overhead expense necessary for such purposes, including maintenance of machinery, tools and equipment for such care; compensation of employees, payment of insurance premiums, reasonable payments for employee benefit plans, and maintaining necessary records of ownership, transfers and burials.

Maintenance means the physical upkeep of a cemetery’s grounds and buildings as defined under Care.

*Cemetery grounds open everyday (weather permitting) 8 AM to 5 PM ~ Mausoleum Buildings open from 8 AM to 4:30 PM
Office open 9 AM to 4:30 PM (Monday thru Friday) ~ 9 AM to 12:00 noon on Saturdays
For further information please visit the website of the Office of Catholic Cemeteries www.holyroodcemetery.org*

Permanent Maintenance Fund is all of the money that is allocated from the sale of each interment, entombment or inurnment and placed in trust for the maintenance and upkeep of the entire cemetery. The income generated from the investment of this fund is expensed in current operating costs (care costs). Care standards are set based upon the income available. Income in excess of care costs shall be retained for the continued maintenance, repair or renovation of the cemetery as a whole.

Perpetual Care - is an endowment care that consists of the income received to provide for the care in perpetuity and as such is subject to legal provisions that apply to trust funds requiring that the principal be invested in order to provide income for care of the endowed item. Care standards are set based upon the income available. Income in excess of care costs shall be retained, reinvested for the continued maintenance, repair or renovation of the endowed item. One example of an endowed item is for the care of a family (private) mausoleum.

New Glass Front Cremation Niches

A beautiful place to remember a life well-lived...

Give your loved ones a permanent memorial that will be cherished for generations to come. Catholic Cemeteries is introducing glass-front cremation niches—a graceful new way to honor life's memories and passions.

For more information on glass-front cremation niches with no cost or obligation call (516) 334-7900 or (631) 732-3460 or visit holyroodcemetery.org.

Cremation Memorials ... making the selection

It is never too soon to set up a visual symbol in beautiful surroundings that will perpetuate cherished memories. But beautiful memorials don't just happen. They require forethought and planning.

Many families make their memorial selections in advance so that decision-making can be done together and can be eliminated during a time of stress. But whether a memorial purchase is made prior to need or at the time of need, you will want to be familiar with the many cremation memorial options that are available.

Columbarium Niche

A columbarium is an indoor or outdoor wall containing niches. A niche is defined as a recessed compartment designed to hold urns. Columbariums may be an entire building, a room, a wall along a corridor or a series of special alcoves or halls in a mausoleum, chapel, or other buildings located in our catholic cemeteries. Niches come in many sizes with a selection of fronts such as glass, marble, bronze, granite or mosaic.

Our columbarium niches are designed for two urns in each niche. The standard square shaped opening (often referred to as "Select") holds two tradition size urns while the rectangular shaped opening is a slightly larger size space (often referred to as "Classic") can accommodate slightly large urns. Some clear glass fronted niches allow portraits to be placed on an easel inside along with the urn.



A Glass, Bronze, Marble, or Granite Front Cremation Niche (each holds 2 urns)

Family Plot

If you already own a burial plot or have a space in a family lot, you may choose to inter the cremation urn there. This is also called inurnment. Catholic Cemeteries will permit the inurnment (interment) of three cremated remains a single gravesite designated for three adult casket spaces. Before exercising this option, it is recommended to examine the family memorial to ensure all interred can be properly memorialized. The lot's monument can be used for those who have chosen cremation or in combination with family members who have chosen casketed burial. Grave site committal of the urn is available and our catholic cemeteries require that the urn be placed in an urn vault for inurnment (interment). There are a wide

***Cemetery grounds open everyday (weather permitting) 8 AM to 5 PM ~ Mausoleum Buildings open from 8 AM to 4:30 PM
Office open 9 AM to 4:30 PM (Monday thru Friday) ~ 9 AM to 12:00 noon on Saturdays
For further information please visit the website of the Office of Catholic Cemeteries www.holyroodcemetery.org***

variety of memorialization products and monuments available but you should check your cemetery deed and the accompanying section rules before purchasing your memorial. Catholic Cemeteries will assist you with this purchase. The monument or marker you select will be a lasting genealogical record for the generations of your family and a lasting symbol of the special life you want to remember and commemorate.

Catholic Cemeteries provides inurnment (the placement of cremated remains) in ground at the family burial lot.

***A gravesite lot inurnment (each holds 3 urns)
And placement in a family crypt
(* under many circumstances we can
accommodate 1 urn inside the purchased
crypt space – see office for details).***

Cremation Urns

Urns for the permanent containment of cremated remains come in a variety of sizes, styles and materials. In fact, there are urns to satisfy every taste, requirement and, as well as, every budget. You may select an urn from bronze, pewter, marble, granite, brass or from selected hardwoods. They are also available in porcelain, ceramic, stone, hand-blown glass and cloisonné. Urns range in size from single to multiple capacity, and in styling from the traditional book shape and classic catholic symbols and design to novel creations and decorative art pieces and can be personalized to depict an individual's catholic faith or a special interest.

Catholic Cemeteries maintains a selection of urns on display at the cemetery office and many are depicted at our website's cremation information page.

With so many beautiful and unique urns available, you may have difficulty in making a selection. But before making a final decision, it must be decided where the cremated remains will be placed. If it is going to be placed in a columbarium niche, what size and shape urn can it accommodate? Will it be interred in a gravesite -- the family plot? Do you need an urn vault? At times Catholic Cemeteries does require a specific type of urn be used? These are some of the things you should take into consideration before you make your selection.

Cremation Memorial – the lasting tribute

Although the selection of a cremation memorial may be time-consuming and require some important decision-making, once it has been accomplished it will give you and the generations that follow much satisfaction. Permanent memorialization not only provides a lasting tribute to a loved one, but also gives peace of mind and a place of pilgrimage. Caring about and remembering others are what life and memorializing are all about.

[Read more at](#)

OUTDOOR PRAYER SERVICES:

"... LET THEM COME TO THE WATER"

When we hear the expression "come to the water" at this time of year, we think of lakes, rivers and oceans where all sorts of summer activities happen. But for those who are grieving, the sun seems to be blocked by their own personal dark cloud that somehow follows where ever they go.

We have planned prayer services that will help us to be at peace with the summer both physically and spiritually. Weather permitting, we will gather together *outdoors* to pray for and with each other.

Through scripture, music and meditation presented by one of our cemetery chaplains, we hope that God's healing power will help us feel the sun through our cloud of grief. Please feel free to invite friends and family.

***May 31, 2014 @ 9:30 am - Cemetery of the Holy Rood,
111 Old Country Rd., Westbury, NY***

***June 14, 2014 @ 9:30am - Holy Sepulchre Cemetery,
3442 Rt. 112, Coram, N.Y.***

If it should rain, services will be held in the chapel.

***Cemetery grounds open everyday (weather permitting) 8 AM to 5 PM ~ Mausoleum Buildings open from 8 AM to 4:30 PM
Office open 9 AM to 4:30 PM (Monday thru Friday) ~ 9 AM to 12:00 noon on Saturdays
For further information please visit the website of the Office of Catholic Cemeteries www.holyroodcemetery.org***

Saturday Masses at our Chapels

In time, we come to the awareness that the cemetery is a place of comfort; we live in the hope that those we love are safe and secure in the Lord. We are also comforted in the simple act of remembering our loved ones, as the visit to the cemetery renews a bond we know can never be broken. Please join us for the monthly masses at Catholic Cemeteries

[Click here for the Schedule](#)

Brochures and Literature

[Cremation Planner Guide](#)

[Overview Guide for Lot Owners and Visitors](#)

[How Do I Purchase a Monument ?](#)

[How Do I Inscribe a Family Monument ?](#)

[Can I Get the Cemetery Monument Cleaned ?](#)

[Cemetery gates are open everyday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Offices closed noon Saturdays, on Sundays and the following holidays:](#)

Forms and Documents

[Do you Have an Aging Plan?](#)

[Bouquet holders for Gravesite flowers?](#)

[Cemetery Donation Programs?](#)

Schedules

[Cemetery Chapel Masses](#)

[Holidays for Office Closings – Days of no burials](#)

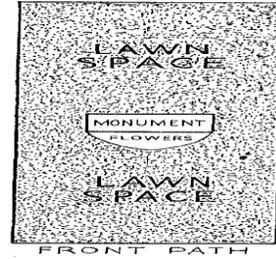
[Seasonal Decorations and Planting](#)

[Have You Moved?](#)

It's important to keep your current address on file in case you have to be contacted for any reason
<http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/changeofaddressform.pdf>

Planting Regulations

[Rules and regulations – Read more ...](#)



As warm weather approaches, we would like to remind you about the planting regulations. In monument sections, annual flowers such as geraniums, begonias, impatiens and marigolds may be planted in a bed that can extend 18" in front of the monument. Bouquets of fresh flowers are permitted in monument sections in vases that are ground level, and in shrine sections in the vase that is part of the bronze memorial. No glass vases, statues or other breakable items are permitted as they could cause injuries to employees as they are maintaining the grounds. **As a reminder - Items placed in violation of the planting and decorating rules and items deemed unsightly or out of season are removed and disposed of in accordance with stated policies.** Potted plants are permitted for holidays. All holiday decorations will be picked up on the following Monday.

When does the cemetery pick up and remove items from the gravesites? <http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/info.pdf>

For a more in-depth explanation of grave decorations and planting rules and regulations, please visit the following link:
<http://www.holyroodcemetery.org/files/50221882.pdf>

Memorial Day Masses

Memorial Day Mass celebration on **Monday, May 26, 2014**

11:00 AM Cemetery of the Holy Rood (Holy Rood Chapel)
11:00 AM Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel)
12 noon Queen of All Saints Cemetery - Field Mass



Sacred Places

Vol. 25 No. 2
 Fall 2014

This is a Cemetery

Lives are commemorated - deaths are recorded - families are reunited - memories are made tangible - and love is undisguised. This is a cemetery.

Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched.

Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishments and to the life - not death - of a loved one.

The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.

New York Genealogy Links

- [New York Death Records, 1900-Present - Archives.com](#)
- [New York Obituary Records, 1900-Present - Archives.com](#)
- [New York Birth Records, 1900-Present - Archives.com](#)
- [New York Marriage Records, 1900-Present - Archives.com](#)
- [New York Vital Records, 1900-Present - Archives.com](#)
- [New York Obituary Records, 1704-1999 - GenealogyBank.com](#)
- [Find Obituaries and Death Records in Newspapers 1690-Today - GenealogyBank.com](#)

Follow us on Facebook. Learn about cemetery programs, events, announcements via:



[Click here to find us on Facebook](#)

About Our Catholic Cemeteries

About Catholic Cemeteries - Diocese of Rockville Centre
 The Catholic Cemeteries -DRVC exists to meet the needs of individuals and parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre in preparation for, at the time of, and following the death of a loved one. The ministry we provide extends into the area of liturgy, prayer, comfort, support, grief and evangelization. Our ministry is rooted in the reality of the human person as an embodied spirit. That embodiment is sacred, for it locates the human spirit in history and in place.

Our Catholic Cemeteries are places of prayer and meditation, monuments to our Faith and witness to life everlasting. Catholic burial is a unique ritual, characterized by rites that express profound spiritual truths. A Catholic funeral acknowledges the dignity of human beings, created in the image and likeness of God, and the inestimable value of each individual soul.

Looking forward at Catholic Cemeteries

We are pleased to announce that Catholic Cemeteries – Diocese of Rockville Centre (DRVC) has agreed to assume all management functions for the St. John the Evangelist cemetery adjacent to Saint John the Evangelist Church in Riverhead NY. This is good news for all concerned. The agreement will permit the St. John the Evangelist staff to focus on other important parish priorities, while assuring the cemetery will continue to receive the specialized care and attention promised to its faithful departed.

Catholic Cemeteries – DRVC has served the parish cemetery for many years, with burial services, and will now expand its role to include onsite sales and service, custodial care of cemetery records, lawn care services, property maintenance and security. St. John the Evangelist parishioners will be well served onsite, at the same high level of care offered by the larger diocesan cemeteries. All pre-need and immediate need planning, purchases, payments, as well as, all other cemetery matters will be administered conveniently Monday through Saturday, at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery office. As an additional benefit, St. John the Evangelist cemetery families will now have the

option to participate in Catholic Cemeteries' decoration program for Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day either thru the mail or online.

One immediate enhancement planned for the St. John the Evangelist cemetery, by Catholic Cemeteries, will be landscape improvements and long term care of the facility.

Some sought after short and long goals:

- o Installation of an irrigation system.
- o Road surface repairs and maintenance.
- o Healthy Tree Assessment and service maintenance plan.
- o Maintaining the cemetery fences.

These types of benefits and improvements will not only help keep the grounds beautiful and welcoming, but also demonstrate the commitment of all to maintain the cemetery to the highest standards.

Catholic Cemeteries is well suited to assume the management of the St. John Evangelist Parish Cemetery. It has the resources, vision and ministerial experience to serve the needs of all St. John the Evangelist parishioners. The cemetery will continue to symbolize the promise of everlasting life and the resurrection to come.

For additional information call us at (631) 732-3460 or write or visit our office location Catholic Cemeteries – DRVC, 3442 Route 112 Coram NY 11727.

Remembrance

Remembrance ...

The weeks and months following a death in the family are numbing and difficult. Prayer and participation in the life of the Church can provide comfort and a way of continuing the relationship with the deceased family member. Visits to the cemetery also provide comfort and an ongoing assurance of the Church's hope in the resurrection of the dead.

The Catholic cemeteries of the diocese celebrate monthly masses for the souls of the faithful departed buried there, as well as special prayer services and Masses such as Good Friday Stations of the Cross, Memorial Day, and the Cemetery Sunday (Candle Vespers) and All Souls.

Every day, family members experience the peace and comfort that comes from visiting the ground set aside and made sacred, the resting place of their loved ones.

Memorials in a Catholic Cemetery

The purpose of a memorial is to remember and honor the life of a Catholic person. Simply, a faith filled imagery monument is a lasting way to say "I care." Future generations should be able to tell something about the person's faith from their monument. Time, love and thought should be taken in deciding how to convey the person's life of faith with a memorial. The design work on a memorial is an excellent way to do just that. The memorial is a teachable moment for the church. It is placed in a cemetery – a sacred place. The memorial provides an opportunity to speak to family members and future generations on issues of the Catholic faith and belief in the resurrection.

Epitaphs - In general, epitaphs must be from Scripture, prayers, or religious hymns, and must readily and apparently express Christian virtues.

The single greatest challenge to the cemetery's management is the overall preservation of the cemetery's sacred nature and the broader community message with a constant reminder to all that as Catholics we believe and hope in the promise of eternal life.

The cemetery with its statues, monuments, decorations and overall appearance is seen as a place of faith, a place to heal, and in our grief most importantly a symbol of hope with the teachings in the resurrection.

This is not just a sentiment -- but a core value belief that should never be lost and is often in peril and readily dismissed by secular society.

We teach the current and future generations of cemetery visitors with the words and symbols that appear on our monuments.

Augmenting epitaphs of faith and diminishing the words not related to our faith beliefs is our goal, and is the purpose and intent of monument regulations.

We remain selective, careful, and thoughtful of the positive Christian message and the symbols of true importance that we impress upon our community.

In return, each of us as a Christian member of this community helps shape and share our beliefs to those who walk the grounds today and those who are the church of tomorrow.

Christmas Ornament Mass



The Christmas Holiday season is not a happy one for everyone. If you are in the midst of grief, you may feel overwhelmed not only by your loss, but also by the expectations of others. There is an inherent need to remember those you have loved in a special way and, hopefully, we can provide you with such an opportunity.

At Holy Rood, Holy Sepulchre, and Queen of All Saints Cemeteries, during the Saturday Mass on **December 6th**, family members will be invited to place an ornament on our Christmas trees in memory of their loved ones. You are invited to bring an ornament with you to be placed there during the offertory procession. Please remember that our chapels are public places, so we recommend an ornament that can be easily replaced, if necessary. The ornaments will remain on the trees throughout the Christmas season and can be picked up any day from January 1st through January 10th.

Candle Lighting Service



It has been said that a cemetery is for the living. Although it's true that a Catholic Cemetery is the final resting place of the mortal bodies that were temples of the Holy Spirit until the Lord comes in glory, it is also a place where we, the living, come to remember those we love who have gone before us. It is a place where we come soon after the funeral filled with sadness and loneliness.

In time, however, we come to the awareness that the cemetery is a place of comfort; we live in the hope that those we love are safe and secure in the Lord. We are also comforted in the simple act of remembering our loved ones, as the visit to the cemetery renews a bond we know can never be broken.

On **Sunday, November 2nd**, we will have an opportunity to remember, in a special way, those we love that are interred in Catholic Cemeteries. **Beginning at 3:00 PM at Holy Rood Cemetery**, [the Diocesan Choir](#) will preside over a ceremony of prayer, song and remembrance. All will participate in a candle lighting ceremony at which time those who were interred since **November 1st 2013** will be remembered by name as requested.

We invite all to attend, pray, sing, and remember.

If you plan to **attend**, please contact the cemetery office at **(516) 334-7990** no later than **Wednesday, October 29th** with the name of the deceased who was interred after November 1st, 2013, whom you wish to have remembered.

All Souls Day Masses



The Catholic Mass is a memorial and [Eucharist means 'thanksgiving'](#). Mass is a re-enactment of the ultimate and supreme sacrifice of Jesus; the only death that offers all souls true security and for which we are eternally grateful. It gives us hope as we honor the one who came to be with us for a season, who left to prepare a place for us and who calls us to be with Him always. Knowing that death does not have the final say, and love does, we are strengthened in the face of our losses.

Since All Souls Day falls on a Sunday this year we recommend everyone attend their home parish celebrations for mass.

**Catholic Cemeteries will be celebrating
Cemetery Sunday (our Candle Lighting Service)
on Sunday, November 2nd at
Cemetery of the Holy Rood, Westbury
3:00 PM**

On All Souls Day, we not only remember the dead, but we apply our efforts, through prayer, almsgiving, and the Mass, to their release from Purgatory. There are two plenary indulgences attached to All Souls Day, one for visiting a church and another for visiting a cemetery. While the actions are performed by the living, the merits of the indulgences are applicable only to the souls in Purgatory. Praying for the dead is a Christian obligation. In the modern world, when many have come to doubt the Church's teaching on Purgatory, the need for such prayers has only increased. The Church devotes the month of November to prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and **participation in the Mass of All Souls Day is a good way to begin the month.**

Saturday Masses at our Chapels

In time, we come to the awareness that the cemetery is a place of comfort; we live in the hope that those we love are safe and secure in the Lord. We are also comforted in the simple act of remembering our loved ones, as the visit to the cemetery renews a bond we know can never be broken. **Please join us for the monthly masses at Catholic Cemeteries.**

[Mass Schedule](#)

[Decoration – Placement and Removal Schedule](#)

[Holiday Schedule](#)

Mausoleum Decoration Programs

Christmas Chapel Plants



Easter Chapel Plants



Gravesite Decoration Programs

Mother's Day Floral



Father's Day Floral



[Know this before](#) you purchase your holiday decorations?

Christmas Blanket and Pillows



[Catholic Cemeteries "Green" Programs?](#)

On Our Website

www.holyroodcemetery.org

Decoration and
Memorial Programs
are now available on line.

Checkout
with **PayPal**[®]

Fast, easy, secure.